

City of Aberdeen
Council Work Session
April 19, 2010

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers of Aberdeen City Hall at 3:58 p.m. All members were present.

There were no matters of immediate and urgent business. The Mayor then opened the Work Session.

Josh Quesenbery of the Aberdeen Department of Public Works gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the City's progress with the I & I (Inflow and Infiltration) initiative. I & I is the harmful seepage of rainwater and snowmelt into the sanitary sewer system for which the City had been taking steps to identify and mitigate. After a presentation, Mr. Quesenbery entertained comments and questions from the Mayor and Council.

The Council discussed the public comments from the public hearing on April 12, 2010 regarding the proposed changes to the Charter. The City Manager gave a brief summation of the comments made by three speakers on the subject. Councilwoman Elliott expressed her opinion that: (1) the terms of office for elected officials should be two years and on a staggered basis; (2) that the Council should approve the termination of a Department Head; (3) the position of Council President should not be eliminated. Councilman Garner rebutted Councilwoman Elliott's points. There was no further discussion on the matter.

The City Manager and the Director of Finance presented the first draft of the FY 11 Budget. That budget was not balanced and was to be considered in draft form. The City Manager explained that the FY 11 Budget was actually a collection of four budgets that included; the Water Enterprise Fund, the Sewer Enterprise Fund, the Stadium Enterprise Fund and the General Fund. Even though the City owns and operates the water and sewer systems at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, those budgets were not part of this budget presentation. The City Manager did comment that the budget is, among other things, the priority setting document for the next twelve to eighteen months and that no policy initiative can take place if it is not included in the budget. The City Manager stated that the three goals for FY 10: (1) to not reduce the level of municipal services; (2) to invest back in the city where possible; (3) to protect City employees from lay-off and furlough, would gain be the goals for FY 11. The City Manager then discussed the reduction in State shared revenue and how that would impact the FY 11 Budget. He emphasized that the Mayor did not intend to raise the property tax rate or water and sewer rates for FY 11. The City Manager then reviewed each budget separately and in greater detail. At the conclusion of the City Manager's presentation, the Mayor commented that the budgets were not balanced and that any suggestions or comments should be addressed to him or the City Manager.

The City Manager made three announcements. First, that the Boys and Girls Club had signed a Memorandum of Understanding and would operate the City's pool for the summer of 2010. Second, that the notification mailer announcing the ENR Fee would be sent out in the next several weeks. Third, that the City had entered into a class action lawsuit to recover costs associated with MTBE contamination into the City's water system.

Being no further business, the meeting/work session was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas R. Miller
City Manager